

Our ref:		

Highways England Bridge House Walnut Tree Close Guildford GU1 4LZ www.highways.gov.uk

25 June 2018

Dear

We have now completed our search for the information you requested on the 25 May in relation to the number of correspondence Highways England has received regarding travellers at Marling Cross in Gravesend. Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We have been contacted a total of 9 times regarding travellers at Marling Cross in Gravesend.

In response to an enquiry we received in November 2017 the following actions were taken:

- A land agent attended the site to assess welfare concerns.
- The site was temporarily closed for environmental issues.

In response to 2 pieces of correspondence we received in April/May 2018 the following actions were taken:

- Following the welfare checks by the land agent, a serving notice to vacate was issued, during a visit to the site on Wednesday 9 May, but the travellers refused to vacate the area until a Court Order was served.
- We are now awaiting the Court Order, which we hope to serve with the support of the Police.

Towards the end May 2018 we received 6 pieces of correspondence, regarding this issue and the following actions were taken in response:

- The Court Order was served on the 24 May, which resulted in the travellers vacating the site over the weekend of the 28 May.
- The site was then cleared of hazardous waste, litter and debris over the weekend of the 2 June.
- In order to prevent further access to the site, 2.5 tonne concrete blocks have been installed across the site's entrance and footpaths.
- The site has now been handed over to our property management team and we will be working with them to determine the best security measures for the site.





• We are aware that the travellers have accessed areas outside of the lorry park and we are arranging for repairs to be made to this area under the Damage to Crown Property (DCP) procedures.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number **member** in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail <u>info@highwaysengland.co.uk</u>. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely





